

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 10 and cancel claims 2, 11 and 12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of boarding an item comprising the steps of:
 - (a) feeding a board onto a rotatable table;
 - (b) placing an item on the board;
 - (c) stabilizing the item on the board with a fixture;
 - (d) rotating the table; and
 - (e) affixing the item to the board with an elastic staple- staple;
 - f) removing the fixture from the board; and
 - g) removing the board with the stapled item affixed from the table.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein feeding a board comprises the step of automatically placing a board on the table.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein placing the item on the board comprises the step of manually placing the item on the board.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein feeding a board comprises the step of utilizing a feeder arm.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein stabilizing the item with a fixture comprises the step of placing an open fixture against the board and loading the open fixture with the item so the item contacts the board.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein stabilizing the item comprises the step of pressing the item against the board with the fixture.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of removing the boarded item from the table utilizing a lift arm.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein affixing the item to the board comprises the step of stapling the item to the board with a plurality of elastic staples.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of boarding an item comprising the steps of:
 - (a) feeding a board onto a table;
 - (b) placing an item on the board;
 - (c) stabilizing the item with a fixture; and
 - (d) attaching the item to the board with an elastic staple while the item is contiguous to the ~~fixture~~ fixture;
 - (e) removing the fixture from the board; and
 - (f) removing the board with the item attached from the table,

11.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for boarding items comprising:
(a) a rotatable table;
(b) a board feeder, said board feeder proximate said table;
(c) an item fixture, said item fixture positioned contiguous said table; and
(d) a stapler, said stapler proximate said table for stapling the item to the board.
14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising an elastic staple, said elastic staple contained within said stapler.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said item fixture comprises a clamp, said clamp for retaining the item against said table.
16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said item fixture defines a channel, said channel passing completely therethrough, said channel for containing an item as said fixture is positioned against a board on said table.

17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said channel is shaped to replicate the outer configuration of the item.
18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprises a needle, said needle positioned in said stapler, said fixture defining a needle aperture whereby said stapler can drive a staple along said needle through said needle apertures and into the board to bind the item on the board.
19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said channel is spoon-shaped.
20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said item fixture comprises a body, said body defining an item channel, a mounting bracket, and said mounting bracket attached to said body.